

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said first and second pluralities of teeth include asymmetrical teeth..

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch apparatus.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

7-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~33~~50, wherein said engaging member includes a first plurality of asymmetrical teeth and said locking member includes a second ~~pluralities~~ plurality of teeth~~include asymmetrical teeth~~.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~33~~50, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch.

20. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 19, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~33~~50, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

23-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A latch apparatus for a vehicle seat comprising:
a housing;

an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion having a first plurality of teeth;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion having a second plurality of teeth in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into engagement with said engaging portion.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said biasing member causes a first moment to be applied to said locking member and a reactive moment to be applied to said engaging member, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) A vehicle seat assembly comprising:

a seat bottom;

a seat back operably attached to said seat bottom; and

a latch assembly supported by said seat bottom to selectively prevent rotation of said seat bottom, the latch apparatus comprising:

a housing;

an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion having a first plurality of teeth;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion having a second plurality of teeth in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into engagement with said engaging portion.

36. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said biasing member causes a first moment to be applied to said locking member and a reactive moment to be applied to said engaging member, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

37. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

38. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said first and second pluralities of teeth include asymmetrical teeth.

39. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch apparatus.

40. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 39, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly of Claim 47, wherein said second plurality of teeth is in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth.

43. (Currently Amended) The seat assembly of Claim ~~41~~52, wherein said engaging member includes a first plurality of asymmetrical teeth and said locking member includes a second pluralities plurality of teeth ~~include asymmetrical teeth~~.

44. (Currently Amended) The seat assembly of Claim ~~41~~52, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch.

45. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly of Claim 44, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

46. (Currently Amended) The seat assembly of Claim ~~41~~52, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~41~~52, wherein said engaging portion includes a first plurality of teeth and said locking portion includes a second plurality of teeth.

48. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~33~~50, wherein said engaging portion includes a first plurality of teeth and said locking portion includes a second plurality of teeth.

49. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly of Claim 48, wherein said second plurality of teeth is in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth.

50. (New) A latch apparatus for a vehicle seat comprising:
a housing;
an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into ratcheting engagement with said engaging portion to move said locking portion along said engaging portion and into one of a plurality of locked positions between said locking member and said engaging member.

51. (New) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein a first moment is applied to said locking member and a reactive moment is applied to said engaging member when said locking member is in one of said plurality of locked positions, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

52. (New) A vehicle seat assembly comprising:

a seat bottom;

a seat back operably attached to said seat bottom; and

a latch apparatus supported by said seat bottom to selectively prevent rotation of said seat bottom, the latch apparatus comprising:

a housing;

an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into ratcheting engagement with said engaging portion to move said locking portion along said engaging portion and into one of a plurality of locked positions between said locking member and said engaging member.

53. (New) The seat assembly of Claim 52, wherein a first moment is applied to said locking member and a reactive moment is applied to said engaging member when said locking member is in one of said plurality of locked positions, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.